and earning lot of ill-gotten money besides leading to hampering the sub-soil water table and permanent damage to underground water potential; and

(b) if so, the measures that are taken to protect the natural resource and the interest of public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indiscriminate removal of sand from rivers is not being done in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu is providing sand to the people for the purpose of construction activities through a single point department that is Public Works Department (PWD), with effect form 02.10.2003 to control indiscriminate sand quarrying by private agencies. The sand quarrying operations are done by the PWD, with the prior approval of the District Collectors after considering all the related issues to protect natural resources and to protect the interest of public. Sand quarrying is done from rivers at very shallow depths (less than 1m) without affecting the river flow and regime and ensuring environmental protection carefully. In effect, sand movement through littoral drift is only quarried and subsoil water table and the ground water potential are in no way affected.

Implementation of Senior Citizen Act, 2007

834. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007;

(b) whether the Act has been implemented by all the States/UTs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The Act has so far been brought into force by 21 states and all the 7 UTs. A statement giving details of steps taken by the states for its effective implementation is enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken by States for Implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act-2007

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Date of Notification of Act	Appointed date of enforcement of act in State/UT	Date of Notification of Rules	Date of Notification of Maintenance Officer	Date of Notification of Maintenance Tribunal	Date of Notification of Appellate Tribunal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.04.08	28.04.08				

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	08.08.08	06.08.08				
3.	Assam	04.10.08	04.10.08			02.08.08	
4.	Bihar			Not yet notified			
5.	Chhattisgarh	26.09.08	26.09.08		24.01.09	24.01.09	24.01.09
6.	Goa	23.09.08	01.10.08				
7.	Gujarat	07.10.08	07.10.08	19.05.09	19.05.09	19.05.09	19.05.09
8.	Haryana	22.10.08	22.10.08	19.06.09			
9.	Himachal Pradesh			The State has its own Act			
10.	Jammu and Kashmir			*The Act does not extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir*			
11.	Jharkhand	12.04.08	01.04.08		14.02.09	14.02.09	14.02.09
12.	Karnataka	27.03.08	01.04.08			19.02.09	19.02.09
13.	Kerala	24.09.08	24.09.08	28.08.09	17.08.09	17.08.09	17.08.09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23.08.08	23.08.08	02.07.09	02.07.09	02.07.09	02.07.09
15.	Maharashtra	27.02.09	01.03.09				
16.	Manipur			Not yet notified			
17.	Meghalaya			Not yet notified			
18.	Mizoram	29.12.08	01.01.09				
19.	Nagaland	22.04.08	22.04.08				
20.	Orissa	20.09.08	01.10.08	24.09.09	01.10.09		01.10.09
21.	Punjab	15.07.08	15.07.08		27.08.08	27.08.08	27.08.08
22.	Rajasthan	31.07.08	01.08.08		19.09.08	19.09.08	19.09.08
23.	Sikkim			Not yet notified			
24.	Tamil Nadu	29.09.08	29.09.08				
25.	Tripura	14.08.08	15.08.08	22.08.08	15.12.08	15.08.08	15.08.08
26.	Uttar Pradesh			Not yet notified			
27.	Uttarakhand	11.11.08	01.11.08				
28.	West Bengal	05.12.08	05.12.08	12.01.09	20.01.09	20.01.09	20.01.09
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	21.05.08	21.05.08				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Chandigarh	21.10.08	22.10.08			22.12.08	22.12.08
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	17.09.08	17.09.08				
32.	Daman and Diu	17.09.08	17.09.08				
33.	Delhi	08.09.08	01.09.08	30.06.09	01.10.09	01.10.09	
34.	Lakshadweep	25.10.08	22.09.08				
35.	Puducherry	31.10.08	01.11.08				

Misuse of law for protection of SCs and STs

†835. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of misuse of law related to punishment on use of abusive language against the people of SC and ST community by some people for their self-interest or with malafide intention have come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether Government will consider to make this law more practical and justified so that nobody could misuse such laws made with an intention to provide social justice;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Incidence of false cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was indicated by some agencies.

(b) to (c) The objective of the said Act is to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. However, for dealing with specific false cases, relevant Sections of the IPC can be invoked by the concerned agencies.

Survey on population of backward classes

†836. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent Government's survey, the population of backward classes in the country has been estimated 38.5 per cent at national level;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.